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## March 2022

Spring is coming, folks! With the transition from February's windy weather into March's blue skies, another newsletter lands in your inbox...



## Cromarty Community Development Trust AGM

*Sheila Currie writes:*

'Save the date' for the AGM of the Trust: **afternoon of Saturday 12 March!** It'll be an online gathering, where members can hear about what we've achieved in the last year – and what we've not been able to do due to lack of people and the strange circumstances we all live in. Members will get an email shortly with more detail and how to join the meeting.

Anyone who wants to become a member can get a form at the Post Office - it's only a £1 a year - and anyone who might want to become a Director, contact us at [cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com](mailto:cromartydevelopmenttrust@gmail.com)

# Transition Black Isle: Cromarty Market, Tatties, Bikes and Energy...



## Hooray! The Market is back!

Come along to the Victoria Hall from 10.30-12.30 noon on the morning of Saturday 12 March. No lunches or refreshments yet though... baby steps, though we're reassured by how well the Culbokie and North Kessock markets are going having started again too. We're being careful to make sure it'll be safe and welcoming. Lorna Mackinnon, your Market Organiser, says:

"These are the main points to ensure the safe management of the Cromarty Market. These will be subject to change in accordance with the Government guidelines:

1. **Entry only by main hall door** into the lobby where there will be a hand sanitising station. I propose this will need to be managed by someone (at least initially) to remind people to sanitise and check in with QR code.
2. **Exit only by door at the front of the main hall.** This will also need to be monitored to ensure the public do not enter by this door.
3. Masks to be mandatory unless exempt.
4. QR code specific to the market to be displayed on front door, sanitising station and around the main hall to enable Test & Protect procedure.
5. Stallholder data will be held by the manager.

6. Tables to be appropriately set to enable a minimum of 1 metre distancing between stallholders.
7. To have 3 stalls outside along west wall of hall for those stallholders who prefer to be outside.

I think that without the café facility, the flow of people through the hall should be better so no "bottlenecks" around the café tables. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we can ease things up a wee bit!"

### **It's Tattie Time Again!**

#### **(not) Potato Day 2022**



**\*\* From Mon 21st February \*\***

Seed tatties available to buy, by the tuber..

15p per tuber

This year (as we did last year), we have several people across the Black Isle acting as 'Tattie Hosts', each with some of the range of varieties of potatoes we have on offer. Sheila Currie is your Cromarty host and has a porch-full of tatties and paper bags. Please get in touch - [sheilacurrie15@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacurrie15@gmail.com) 01381 600382 or chap the door (15 Duke St) and remember it is 15p per tuber.

Varieties: 1st Early - Colleen 2nd Early - Bambino, British Queen, Twinner  
Maincrop - Carolus, Lady Balfour. Late Maincrop - Arran Victory, Pink Fir Apple

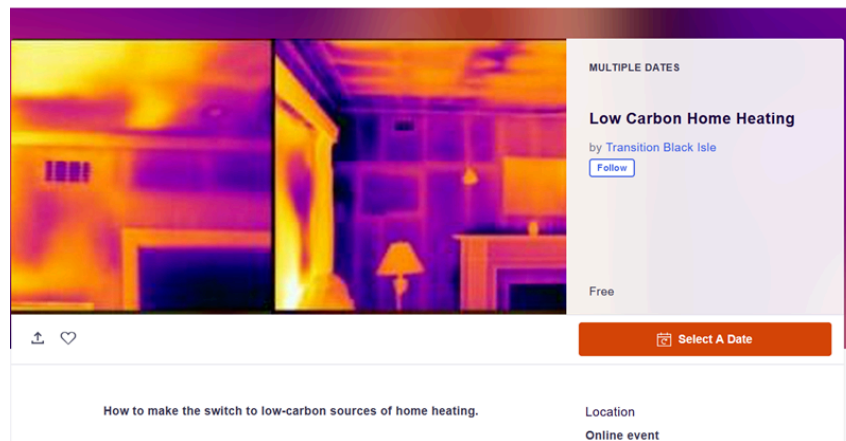
[Find out more here](#) about the varieties and who else has other varieties around the Black Isle.

### **Black Isle Bikes?**

... did anyone fancy taking on the Black Isle Bike hire business, or think of anyone who might?

## Energy Saving Events

Transition Black Isle is organising three FREE short online events to help people find out more about energy saving and which renewable energy systems might be best for you. This is happening on the evenings of the 8th, 15th and 22nd of March. [Find out more here here and how to book a place!](#)



## Cromarty Open Gardens and Studios

*Jeremy Price writes:*

All being well, Cromarty Open Gardens weekend will be held on **Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July**. In the past, there has been a trail of gardens from the smallest - visible only from the street - to woodland settings, quirky designs, or more formal set-ups with structured beds and amazing displays of flowers. There is something for everyone and inspiration to be gained; there are photo opportunities galore and a chance to see the hidden gardens behind walls and hear the stories behind many of them!

Running in parallel with this **from Saturday 25th June to Sunday 3rd July**, there will be an amazing exhibition of flowers and paintings in the East Church - always a popular event!

This year, we are hoping to combine Open Gardens weekend with Open Studios, where a few of our local artists (in all senses of the word) will open up their studios for viewing.

If you live in Cromarty and would like to feature your garden on the trail, further details will follow in subsequent newsletters, but in the meantime, keep the dates in your diary!

## **Cromarty History Society Event**

*Mary Bowers writes:*

After a full house for our first meeting in February, we are pleased to announce the next one: Speaker: **David Alston on 'Escape, Resistance and Uprising: enslaved Africans defy their Highland masters, Guyana 1880-1814'**

Thursday 24 March, 7.30pm, The Old Brewery, Cromarty, all are welcome. £3 each meeting



Quamina – Guyana national hero

**Vote for Your Highland Hero:  
Katie Mackay**



Cromarty lass, Katie Mackay, has been shortlisted for Healthcare Hero of the year at Highland News Group: Highland Hero Awards 2022!

She told our editors that she is absolutely delighted and blown away to be put forward for this award and wishes to thank everyone who has supported [Team Calum](#) in the last year. (You may recall we included some information in [our November 2021 edition](#) of Katie's devotion to raise awareness of suicide and how this led her to reach some amazing summits around Scotland).

The Highland Hero of the Year now goes to public vote, so if you would like to support her and Team Calum, please click the image below to vote!

HIGHLAND HEROES 2022



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Inverness Airport  
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[Vote now for your Highland Heroes 2022](#)

## Business Updates

### Calluna

Our spring collection is now available at Calluna featuring a range of colourful raincoats, t-shirts, sweaters and jeans from Brakeburn in sizes 8-20. The Great Plains Spring range features beautiful floral tops and dresses, on-trend collared tops and a fun collection of jeans & dungarees. ICHI'S Spring line brings a bright palette of greens and oranges to a range of their styles including cardis, jumpers and dresses.

Come in, try on, no pressure to buy - just have a wee browse at all the beautiful new stock in store! Open **daily 10-5pm** with private evening appointments by arrangement. Thank you for supporting small business and keeping Cromarty a destination for locals & visitors alike. 😊

### The Cheese House

We are (still) giving away a £10 gift voucher every month for the next nine months! This is just one of a series of promotions to help celebrate our tenth year in business. All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is provide us with your name and an e-mail address. Names will be drawn at random at the end of each month – so you have 10 goes in total! The only condition is that you're happy for us to add your details to our customer database. You will then receive occasional news updates and be the first to hear of other Cromarty-cheese-related promotions. Contact: [jon@cromartycheese.com](mailto:jon@cromartycheese.com) or call into the shop. You've got to be in it to win it!

A reminder that we are open **Wed-Sat 10.00-17.00 and Sunday 12.00-16.00.**

### **Sutor Creek**

Lots of lovely seasonal dishes on our menu including Shetland scallops with pork belly; sea bream with a champagne sauce; and a rhubarb cheesecake. Don't forget to try our classics including crispy chicken burger; beer battered fish & chips; and our Sunday slow roast! Also note that if you buy a copy of the Spring CHATTERBOX, you'll see a recipe for Graham's rhubarb, pecan and buttermilk pudding!

Please also note our PIZZA SPECIAL is BBQ chicken, bacon, red onions and jalapeños and during the week of St Patrick's Day (March 17th), we will offer an Irish pizza and main course special. Keep an eye on our posters, FB or Instagram for details 🍀

New in the deli: ready-made meals and mini pizzas to take home and heat up at a time that suits you.

Remember we are open **Wednesday to Sunday 12-8pm**. Free delivery in Cromarty Friday to Sunday 5-7.30pm. Order online at [www.sutorcreek.co.uk](http://www.sutorcreek.co.uk) and select delivery or request when phoning in your order to 01381 600 855.

### **Slaughterhouse Coffee: Recruitment**

Slaughterhouse Coffee is continuing its hunt for staff to help serve the caffeine addicts! A hard-working, friendly and reliable person is needed to fill the part-time front of house/assistant role. Customer service experience is preferable but not necessary, and of course there's potential for future barista training.

Please send your CV to [slaughterhouse@gmail.com](mailto:slaughterhouse@gmail.com) if you're interested, or feel free to spread the word to those who might be. Thank you!

Current opening hours are **Thursday to Monday (9-3)** and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

### **Ingrid's House**

The Ingrid's House team are off to our first trade fair in over two years, leaving the shop in the safe hands of Shona and Vicki. We are excited to find new suppliers to fill our shop with wonderful Scandinavian goodies. **Open 7 days a week.** We hope to see you soon!



The beautiful new window at Ingrid's House!

## **Cromarty Courthouse Museum**

Preparations are in hand for opening our museum on **Easter Sunday, 17 April** for a full season this year. We also have 2 vacancies: see the image below for details!





**Cromarty Courthouse  
Museum**  
will be open every day in 2022  
from Easter Sunday 17 April until October  
12 noon until 4.00 p.m.

We are looking for part-time seasonal staff to join our friendly museum team

*Positions can be either paid or volunteer*

#### **Museum Assistant**

Fridays, 11.45 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

Welcoming visitors and working in the small gift shop

#### **Cleaner**

4 hours during the week, worked over 2 or 3 days when the museum is closed to the public

Pay rate for both jobs will be the Real Living Wage, **£9.90** per hour

Letters of application by post to  
Cromarty Courthouse Museum, Church Street, Cromarty IV11 8XA  
or by email to [courthousecromarty@gmail.com](mailto:courthousecromarty@gmail.com)

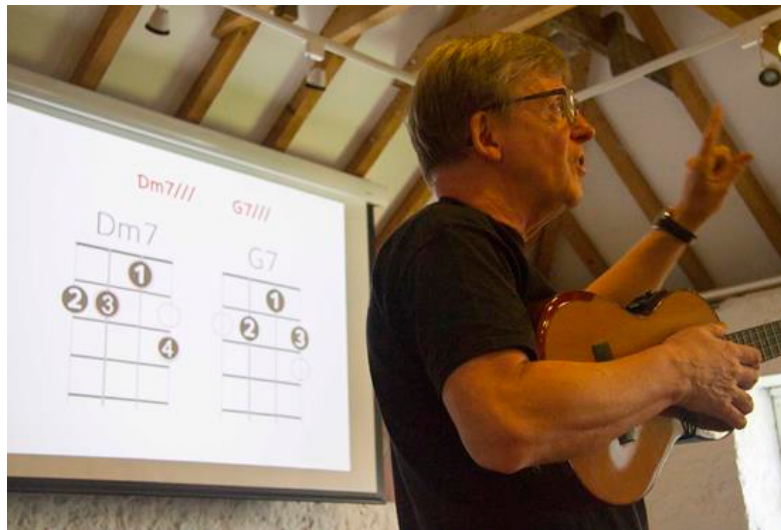
Please state for which post you are applying and provide brief details about yourself and any recent work

**Closing date for applications: 4 March 2022**

*One person may be appointed to both jobs*

Scottish Charities Number: 018438

## **Cromarty Arts Trust**



A busy month ahead for us and so it continues in the same vein until December 2022!

A few of our courses have already sold out so if you're thinking of taking part in something this year, please don't leave it too late.

**Sat 5th & Sun 6th - BEGINNERS SEWING - Fully Booked**

**Sat 12th** - MIRROR VISIONS ENSEMBLE. Stables, 3pm (doors 2.30pm). £12/£8/kids go free - all the way from the States! These highly accomplished musicians sing their way to far-flung destinations, real and imaginary.

**Sat 19th & Sun 20th** - CROMARTY VIRTUAL UKULELE WEEKEND. Join in to as many or few sessions as you wish from the comfort of your own home. Classes to suit all abilities from beginners upwards. £10 each. All details and booking links on our web page.

**Sat 19th & Sun 20th** - BEGINNERS POETRY WEEKEND, Stables, 10am-4pm. £120. Fun and interactive weekend of accessible writing exercises and games, basics of writing in free-verse and an exploration of poetic devices. Suitable for all.

**Fri 25th** - SATSANGI UNPLUGGED GIG. Stables, 8pm (doors 7.30pm). £10. An evening of intimate, electro-acoustic songs with Sujatha Menon (singer) and John Herbert (guitarist), the songwriters of Midlands-based indie-rock band Satsangi. Check them out online - not to be missed!

**Sat 26th & Sun 27th** - BASKET MAKING WEEKEND - Fully Booked.

Just released - CRIME & THRILLERS WEEKEND, **6-8th May** - tickets now on sale for all talks and events!

Please visit [www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk](http://www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk) for further info on all of the above.



Fri 25th Satsangi Unplugged Gig at the Stables, 8pm (doors 7.30pm).

## Clunes Art Classes

Following some disruption to lessons during the pandemic and the use of the Old Brewery for a few weeks, things have settled back to some kind of normality now and Julie is back teaching in the Chalet in the garden.

It is possible to take 7 participants with Covid-compliant rules being applied, so there's a healthy social element to the groups as well as expert guidance and tuition!

Julie is a graduate of the English Gardening School at the Physic Garden in Chelsea and has a Diploma in Botanical Watercolour Painting. She produces cards and prints as well as original paintings. This year Julie is featured in the Scottish Society of Botanical Artists calendar and is also painting a piece for a florilegium being produced at the end of the year.

The classes in painting flowers, foliage, sea life, birds and insects in watercolour are held on Monday afternoons (2-4pm) and Tuesdays (10.30am -12.30pm and 2.30-4.30pm). Experience is not necessary and many have come along having not painted since their schooldays, only to rekindle or discover a hidden talent. Most years there is a show of artwork from the classes during Open Gardens week. This year's exhibition will be held from Saturday 25th June

to Sunday 3rd July with Open Gardens taking place over the last weekend.

There are now vacancies on Tuesdays, either morning or afternoon. If you'd like to start watercolour painting of flowers or improve your skills, please contact Julie Price on 600709 for more information. Equipment and materials are not necessary to begin with and can be supplied initially until you know whether this is for you!

Please note, these classes do not cover landscape painting, portrait painting or the use of oil paints.



Well, that's all we have folks! Here's hoping everyone stayed safe during those pretty relentless winter storms and that your March is full of sunshine and signs of spring!

We're always happy for others to join the editorial team, and if you have any suggestions for how to improve our wee round-up of news, do let us know. See you next month!

*- The Editorial Team*

**Forward**

We trust you've found this an interesting and informative read. Please let us know what you think, or send suggestions and ideas for articles via [editor@cromartylive.co.uk](mailto:editor@cromartylive.co.uk)

The Cromarty Live Newsletter team is Catriona Mallows, Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price and Laura Shepherd.

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